

**Testimony of Marta Daniels in Support of SB 184**  
**AN ACT EXTENDING THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2022, SEVERAL CHANGES**  
**REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 AND**  
**CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.**  
**March 4, 2022**

To the Committee on Government Administration and Elections:

I support SB 184 which would permit voters to participate in November's elections from the safety of their homes. SB 184 would (1) extend through November 8, 2022, several changes regarding election administration as a result of COVID-19, and (2) specify "illness" as grounds for claiming eligibility to vote by absentee ballot.

COVID is still very dangerous, and those of us in our 70s and 80s should not have to risk our health to go to public spaces in order to vote. Hundreds of citizens are still testing positive each day and the numbers hospitalized (194) and the numbers dead (10,400) are still very high. With the unpredictability of the virus' next strain, this is still no time to take chances.

Can anyone predict when the vaccine will be available for all Americans regardless of age? How many citizens will continue to refuse vaccination? (I fear quite a few in Connecticut with its anti-vax movement). The truth is that anti-vaxxers are still a grave source of potential transmission here and elsewhere.

If Covid-related use of Absentee Ballot access was right in November 2021, it is still right for November 2022.

Afraid of voter fraud with ABs? There is no evidence from the last Presidential election—with its massive participation level (over 70% in CT)—of any voter fraud here—either documented or anecdotal. The government's own Homeland Security agency in 2021 testified that 2021 was among the least fraud-fraught elections in American history. To champion fraud as a reason to prevent a Covid-based excuse for using Absentee Ballots in November is simply a very bad lie, if not a total political ruse.

This week, the CDC announced that over 1.3 million residents of Connecticut have been infected with Covid 19 since the virus was unleashed. This is one-third of our entire state's population! How many more need to be infected?

Please support SB 142 and let us vote from the safety of our homes.

Sincerely,

Marta Daniels  
Chester, CT

PS: I also support HB 5262, To revise certain absentee voting eligibility statutes to more closely align the language thereof with that of the related state constitutional provision.